

LEAKE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH.

for the year ending 31st December 1909.

Gentlemen,

I Have the honour to present to you my annual report for the year 1909.

I have not followed the usual routine of previous years, but have endeavoured as nearly as possible to conform to the recommendations contained in a recent Memorandum of the Local Government Board on this subject.

Area in statute acres	1507.
Population (1901)	5409.
Number of inhabited houses	857.
Average number of persons per house	4.8

The physical features and general character of the district are an undulating rural district; high on the North Western corner, gradually sloping downwards to the West towards the River Great Ouse. The greater part of the district is hilly, bare and treeless, and consists mostly of grazing land. The Western and lower portions, namely the parishes of Starford, Horwanton, and Sulistone, are well wooded and picturesque and a considerable portion of the land is under cultivation.

The chief occupation of the inhabitants is agriculture and their condition is fairly prosperous.

The house accommodation for the working classes is fairly adequate and the cottages, in many instances small and old fashioned, are all fit for habitation; there is abundance of space around houses and the cleanliness of the surroundings is as little as desired.

There is no systematic supervision over the erection of new houses and there have been very few new houses erected in the district, the population being almost stationary. No action under the Housing of the Working Classes Act was taken or needed.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply of the district is derived exclusively from wells, and as the quality of well water is constantly liable to change on account of contamination by seepage of liquid filth from the surface of the adjacent ground, movement of subsoil water etc, the matter has received constant attention during the year.

17 samples of drinking water were submitted to the Local Board Inspector of Nuisances. In 3 cases the water was so impure as to justify me in condemning it as unfit for drinking. In each of these cases steps were taken to provide a suitable supply of drinking water. In no instance was any plumbic-solvent action found to exist in the various waters.

MILK SUPPLY.

This is derived from farms in the district; there is no milk imported but considerable quantities are sent out of the district to London and elsewhere.

The dairies are subject to regular inspection under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order. Every precaution is taken to insure ventilation and cleanliness of cowsheds and dairies, and also to detect tuberculous milch cows.

I strongly recommend that a veterinary Inspector be appointed to assist the Inspector in this matter.

OTHER FOODS.

The only places where foods are prepared, stored, or exposed for sale, are butchers' shops and slaughterhouses, grocers' shops, bakers' shops and dairies, and ice and cold storage shops. These are all cleanly and well kept and there is no reason to take any action during the year.

The Food and Drugs Act is administered by the police.

No action was taken, or became necessary, under the Act of 1917 of the Public Health Act 1878.

There were no carcasses or parts of carcasses of animals suffering from tuberculosis.

SEWERAGE and DRAINAGE.

At Sutton Bonington a sewer is operated by the local authority in operation during the year and is giving satisfactory results. The effluent being everything that could be desired.

Throughout the remainder of the district, liquid refuse finds its way in the ordinary manner to the village sewer and thence to the village of Sutton Bonington (which in most instances are long dykes) to the nearest river or brook; these dykes are really long gutters to which the liquid matter is deposited and a large quantity of solid matter is oxidised and otherwise converted by bacterial action, so that there is very little pollution of rivers or streams in the various parishes constituting the district.

FILTH AND REFUSE.

The system in vogue for the past few years is the use of hidden and privy arrangement, the contents of which are emptied of liquid contents into the subsoil and polluting the water table, which as stated above is derived from wells.

Efforts have been made during the last few years to reduce the number of deeply sunk middens and to substitute for them closets, or middens, the floors of which as well as the walls, to the level of the ground, are constructed of concrete or other impervious material, and this course of procedure will be continued in the future.

REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.

This is done by the householder; there are no public scavengers.

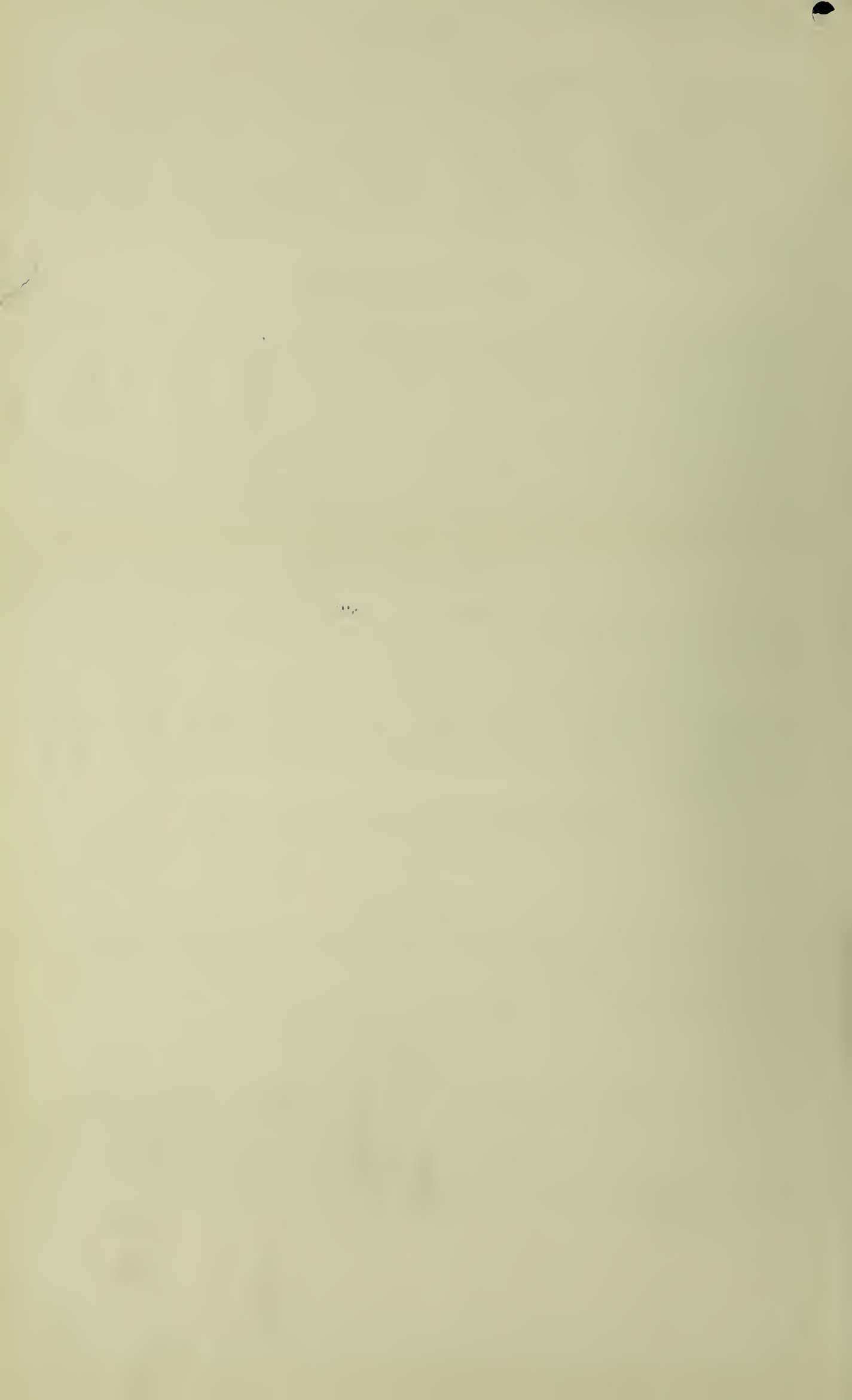
NUISANCES.

Legal proceedings were not necessary for the removal of any nuisances. Nuisances were detected, reported, and removed.

There are no houses let in lodgings in the district and no offensive trade is carried on.

SCHOOLS.

The public Elementary schools are regularly inspected and are all in a fairly good sanitary condition, especially at Sutton Bonington, East Leake, and Stamford, where there are comparatively new schools. The water supply is from wells. The medical inspection of school children is carried out by the Medical Officer of the County Council, who have deputed none of their powers to the District Council.



INFECTIOUS DISTANCES MONITORING ACT.

This Act is in force in the district; and in force in force between this Council and the Local Council of Loughborough, whereby cases of diphtheria and scarlet fever be removed to their Isolation Hospital. Cases of scarlet fever are isolated at their homes. The number of cases of scarlet fever will be given under separate headings later in the report.

At Stanford the school was closed for 14 days in consequence of the prevalence of measles.

DISINFECTION.

After cases of infectious diseases have been dealt with, the rooms are disinfected by sulphur dioxide, the process being used in tuberculosis; when a case of this disease occurs, the sanitary officials advise the householder of the necessary instructions are given as to ventilation, and isolation, and the room is disinfected periodically with formaldehyde. When a death occurs, the room is disinfected with sulphur dioxide after it has been thoroughly aired. There is no hospital accommodation available for early or advanced cases of tuberculosis.

BIRTHS.

The total number of births registered in the district was 1,100, less than last year and 20 below the average of the last ten years; this is an annual birth rate of 17.2 per 1,000 of the population.

MORTALITY.

The total number of deaths registered in the district within the district is 49, which is 3 more than last year and 5 below the average of the last ten years. To these must be added 5 deaths of residents of the district who died in public institutions beyond the district; this makes the total up to 54, which is an annual death rate of 14.5 per 1,000 of the population and is 2 more than last year and 1 more than the average of the last ten years.

INFANT MORTALITY.

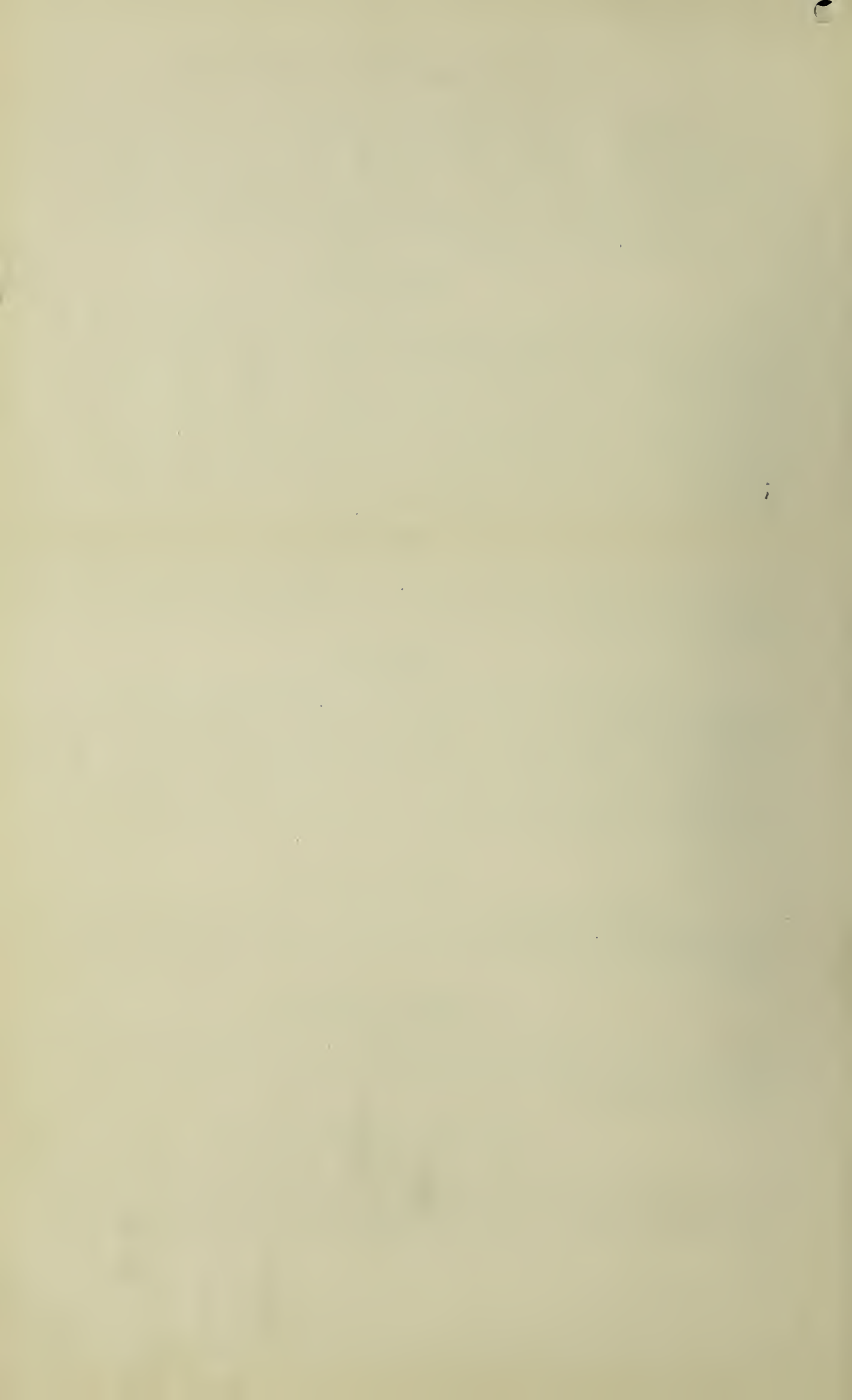
The total number of deaths of infants under the age of 5 years is 4, which is 3 less than last year, and 2 below the average of the last ten years. This is an infant mortality of 4.5 per 1,000 of the births registered.

ZYLOTIC MORTALITY.

The total number of deaths from zymotic diseases is 2, which is 2 less than last year and 3 below the average of the last ten years, and is an annual zymotic mortality of 0.5 per 1,000 of the population.

INFECTIOUS DISTANCES MONITORING.

The total number of cases of infectious diseases registered was 10, which is 3 less than last year and 18 below the average of the last ten years. Of these cases one occurred at Wetherby, one at Willoughby, which was imported, and 8 at Sutton Hall.



ATTACHMENT DISTRICT OF LONDON.

The cases were as follows :-

Diphtheria	6
Scarlet fever	6
Measles	1
Epidemic typhus	3

DIPHTHERIA.

Four cases of diphtheria were reported, 2 in 1909 and 2 in 1910. One occurred at Hoxton, 1 at Hoxton, and 2 at Hoxton. The cases occurred in insanitary conditions; 3 occurred in poor insanitary conditions, and 1 in a good insanitary condition. In the third case no insanitary conditions were discovered. There was no spread of the disease from any of the cases.

SCARLET FEVER.

Only one case of scarlet fever was reported, and was imported.

MEASLES.

Three cases of measles were reported, 2 in 1909 and 1 in 1910. All occurred in the district of Hoxton, and all occurred in poor insanitary conditions. One case was imported, and one was discovered.

EPIDEMIC TYPHUS.

The cases of epidemic typhus were reported, and were imported.

FACTORY INSPECTIONS AND REPORT.

In the continuation of the report of the Inspector of Factories and Workshops and Workhouses, the following are the results of the inspections. None of the conditions were discovered in the three cases. The inspections were made on 19th January, 1910. None of these inspections was infraction of the Act. None of the workshops on the register at the end of 1909.

Appended in the report of the Inspector of Factories and Workshops will be seen details of the work of the Inspector of Factories and Workshops during the year. Appended also are the statistics as to population, births, and mortality for the year and previous 10 years; also of the number of deaths in the year and of deaths classified according to diseases, and localities; also of deaths under one year, and of deaths under diseases and ages. Copies of which, as well as of the report printed, will be sent to the governing Council, the Local Government Board.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

THOMAS CORCORAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

Longborough,

1st February 1910.



STATISTICS.

Deaths from zygotic causes :- Typhoid 1, Typhus 1, Enteric fever 1, Phthisis 2, Other pulmonary 1, Cancer 1, French-syphilis 4, Puerperal 3, Alcoholism 1, Pruritus 1, diabetes 4, Distiches and accidents of parturition 1. All other causes 32. Total 54.

Parish.	Births Registered.	Average last 10 years.	Deaths Registered.	Average last 10 years.
Costock.	3	3	3	3
East Leake.	11	23	14	14
Northcote.	2	0	3	2
Rampston.	2	0	1	1
Stanford.	5	3	2	2
Sutton Bonington.	17	20	3	1
Thorpe-in-Cleugh & Walsall.	2	2	1	2
West Leake.	3	2	3	3
Willoughby.	10	11	7	7

Total births registered 54
 Average last 10 years 30
 Rate per 1000 for last year 15.2
 Average last 10 years 23.4
 Total deaths registered 54
 Average last 10 years 30
 Rate per 1000 for last year 15.2
 Average last 10 years 14.2

To the Chairman and Members of the
 Leake Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

The following table is a summary of the work done out during the year 1909 in the various parishes comprised in the Rural District of Leake.

No. of houses investigated after inspection of drainage system	1
„ samples of water taken for analysis	1
„ wells cleansed, repaired, or extended	1
„ middens etc. cleaned or repaired by hand	21
„ new middens etc. provided	11
„ privies converted into lat. closets	1
„ insanitary conditions remedied	26
„ drains taken up, unstopped, or cleaned by hand	1
„ drains taken up and not once laid	21
„ accumulations of manure & refuse removed	1
„ cowsheds cleansed, limewashed, or repaired	10
„ new gullies and connections made and paving provided or relaid	20
„ licences to store petrol issued	1

The sewage dykes, cesspools etc. in the various parishes have been cleansed as often as required.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
 Your obedient servant,
 GEORGE SMITH.

Inspector of Nuisances.

East Leake,
 13th January 1910.

